Given the large revenue deficit that the Government is faced with to the tune of Rs. 1,12,292 crore for 2003-2004 (BE), it follows that revenue expenditure of the said magnitude is being met from capital receipts.

It is Governments constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments. These measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restriction on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, restriction. on STD/ISD facility, restriction on number of free calls on official residential telephones, etc.

Pending applications in National Committee under Section 3SAC

4715. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that many cases for Income Tax Exemption under Section 35 AC is pending with the National Committee for more than six to eight months;

if so, the number of such cases pending State-wise and the period of pendency from the date of submission of the cases; and

what steps are being taken to clear the applications in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEEN. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir A list containing State-wise pendency of such cases and the period of their pendency is enclosed in Statement ***(See*** below).

(c) Most of the cases are pending for want of requisite details/clarification from the institutions. A few cases are also pending for the reason that the National Committee has decided to verify the activities of the institutions through inspection by its Members.

The Committee is now meeting on a regular basis almost every month to decide upon pending applications.

The Committee has decided to clear applications within three months from the date the institution furnishes necessary information/documents to the satisfaction of the committee or from the date of inspection report, wherever applicable.

Statement

State-wise list of pending cases of Income-tax exemption in National Committee

Name of the State	No. of cases	Period of pendency from the date of submission of cases	
		More than six month but less than one year	More than 1 year
Maharashtra	27	3	24
Gujarat	13	2	11
Tamil Nadu	11	1	10
Delhi	18	1	17
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	5	1	4
West Bengal	18	7	11
Andhra Pradesh	6	2	4
Karnataka	19	3	16
North East Region	11	3	8
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	4	1	3
Rajasthan	4	2	2
Orissa	3	1	2
Haryana	1	NIL	1
Kerala	3	1	2
Bihar	1	NIL	1
TOTAL	144	28	116

Decline in collection of LIC

4716. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during first 10 months of last financial year, the Life Insurance Corporation witnessed a drastic fall in its premium income in comparison to the same period in the previous year;